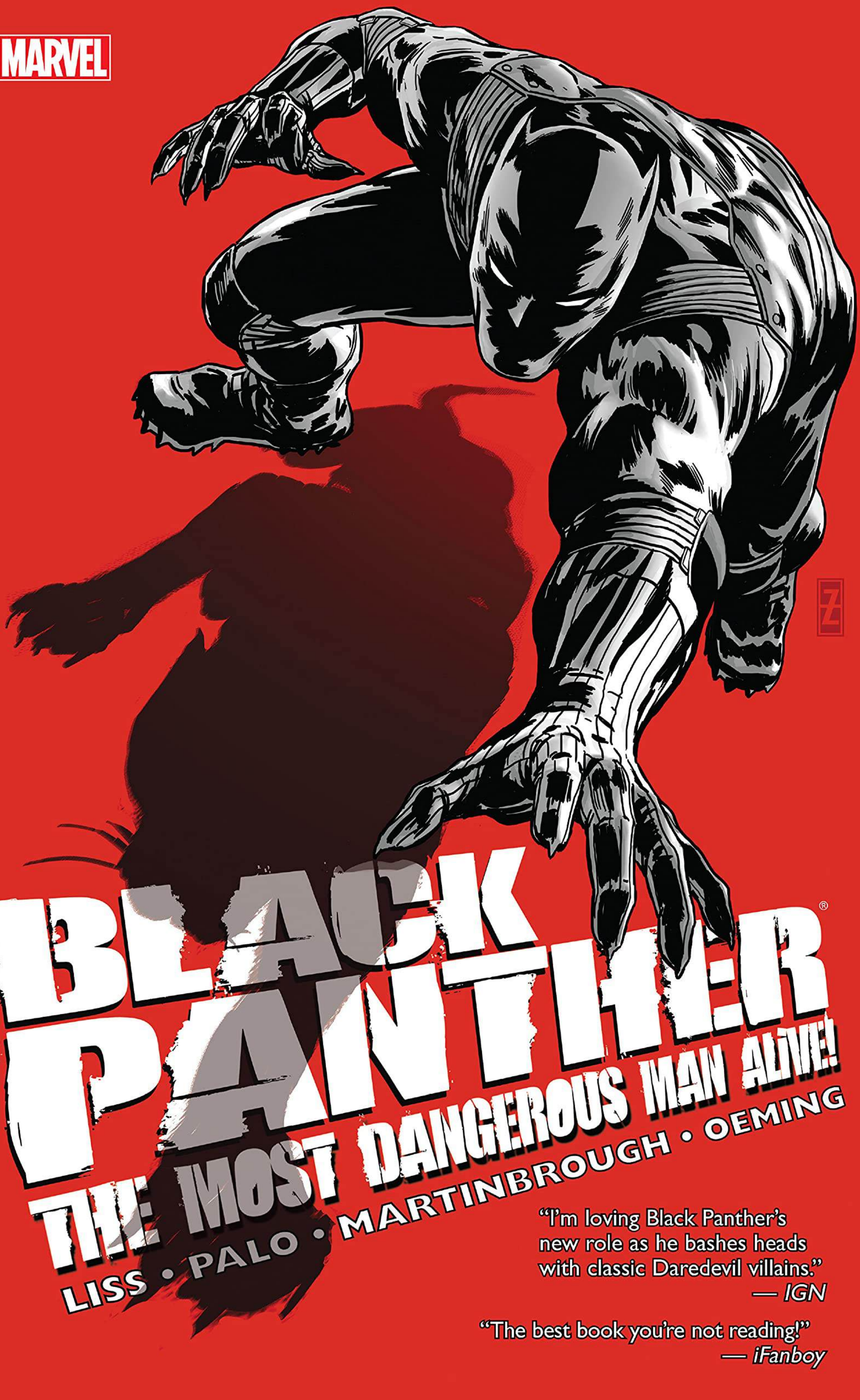
MARVEL



BLACK PANTHER®

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE!

LISS • PALO • MARTINBROUGH • OEMING

"I'm loving Black Panther's new role as he bashes heads with classic Daredevil villains."
— *IGN*

"The best book you're not reading!"
— *iFanboy*

THE PANTHER VS. THE KINGPIN!

T'Challa is determined to protect the people of Hell's Kitchen — and to do so, he's going to have to defeat two of the world's most deadly foes! First, a serial killer is targeting women once rescued by the Black Panther! With only hours to solve the mystery before the fiend strikes again, T'Challa risks falling into a deadly trap to unmask and capture the vicious predator!

Then, the war that has been brewing ever since T'Challa agreed to protect the mean streets of this famous neighborhood finally erupts! With Daredevil out of Hell's Kitchen, the new leader of the Hand makes his move for ultimate power. But why is the Kingpin targeting Wakandan citizens, and can T'Challa save the one woman who holds the key to unlocking the mystery from the deadly duo known as Lady Bullseye and Typhoid Mary?

Collecting *Black Panther: The Most Dangerous Man Alive* #*523.1* and #*525-529* — written by David Liss; and illustrated by Jefte Palo, Shawn Martinbrough and Michael Avon Oeming.

MARVEL

BLACK PANTHER

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE!

THE KINGPIN OF WAKANDA

BLACK PANTHER
THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE!

COLLECTION EDITOR & DESIGN: **CORY LEVINE**
ASSISTANT EDITORS: **ALEX STARBUCK** & **NELSON RIBEIRO**
EDITORS, SPECIAL PROJECTS: **JENNIFER GRÜNWALD** & **MARK D. BEAZLEY**
SENIOR EDITOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS: **JEFF YOUNGQUIST**
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES: **DAVID GABRIEL**
SVP OF BRAND PLANNING & COMMUNICATIONS: **MICHAEL PASCIULLO**

DIGITAL MANAGER/PRODUCTION: **TIM SMITH 3**
DIGITAL PRODUCTION: **KOU CHEN & MEGHAN O'LEARY**
EDITOR IN CHIEF: **AXEL ALONSO**
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: **JOE QUESADA**
PUBLISHER: **DAN BUCKLEY**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: **ALAN FINE**

THE KINGPIN OF WAKANDA

WRITER
DAVID LISS
ARTISTS
JEFTE PALO (ISSUES #523.1 & #529)
SHAWN MARTINBROUGH (ISSUES #525-526 & #529)
MICHAEL AVON OEMING (ISSUES #527-528)
COLORISTS
JEAN-FRANCOIS BEAULIEU (ISSUES #523.1 & #529)
FELIX SERRANO (ISSUES #525-529)
WITH **JESUS ABURTO** (ISSUE #529)
LETTERER
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
COVER ARTISTS
PATRICK ZIRCHER WITH **ANDY TROY** (ISSUE #523.1)
FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA (ISSUES #525-529)
ASSISTANT EDITORS
JOHN DENNING & **JON MOISAN**
EDITOR
BILL ROSEMANN

© 2016 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.WWW.MARVEL.COM

BLACK PANTHER: THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE **#523.1**

I'M TAKING A ***RISK*** INVITING YOU HERE, BUT THE WAY I SEE IT, THERE'S NO CHOICE.

A GUY I TALK TO AT THE ***BUGLE*** SAYS THEY FIGURED IT OUT AROUND THE SAME TIME WE DID.

WE'VE ASKED THEM TO HOLD OFF ON PRINTING IT, BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

THERE'S ANOTHER ***SERIAL KILLER*** IN HELL'S KITCHEN.

DETECTIVE ALEX KURTZ, NYPD.

YES...BUT DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST. THIRD WOMAN FOUND IN THE PAST THREE DAYS. EACH DIED AT ***PRECISELY*** 10:00 P.M. EACH STRANGLED WITH A WHITE SCARF. VIC APPEARED TO KNOW THE PERP.

BUT THAT'S ***NOT*** WHY YOU'RE HERE.

HER FACE IS FAMILIAR.

THIS ***IS*** WHY YOU'RE HERE. YOU RESCUED HER FROM AN ATTEMPTED ASSAULT A COUPLE WEEKS BACK.

SAME WITH THE OTHER TWO.

A KILLER STALKS THOSE I HAVE SAVED.

SOMEONE'S TRYING TO GET YOUR ***ATTENTION.***

TRUE SONS

THEY'VE GOT IT.

SHE WAS JUST STARTING TO GET HER LIFE TOGETHER AFTER THE DIVORCE. SHE'D MET SOMEONE NICE.

YES, MA'AM.

DETECTIVE KURTZ, YOU SAID YOU WISHED TO SPEAK WITH RELATIVES PERSONALLY?

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

YOU...

THEY TOLD ME THIS IS ALL *YOUR* FAULT! YOU CLAIM TO *HELP* PEOPLE, BUT LOOK WHAT YOU *REALLY* BRING!

YOU KILLED MY BABY!

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

SHE'S JUST DISTRAUGHT. YOU SHOULDN'T--

PLEASE, DETECTIVE. HER RAGE IS JUSTIFIED. DON'T WASTE MY TIME OR YOURS WITH PLATITUDES.

I'M GOING TO NEED *EVERYTHING* YOU HAVE ON THESE VICTIMS.

I BROUGHT YOU HERE AS A *COURTESY*, NOT TO BE PART OF THE INVESTIGATION.

IT'S *TOO LATE* FOR THAT.

LOOK, I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE CONCERNED, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU ***CONTAMINATE*** THE CRIME SCENE. THAT COMPUTER'S--

WE'VE LESS THAN 24 HOURS UNTIL THE KILLER STRIKES AGAIN.

YOUR CRIME SCENE IS OF ***SECONDARY*** IMPORTANCE.

IF YOU TAMPER WITH THE EVIDENCE THEN WE CAN'T PROSECUTE... ASSUMING WE ***DO*** FIND HIM.

I ***WILL*** FIND HIM, AND I WILL GET YOU NEW EVIDENCE.

LIKE WHAT?

A ***CONFESSION.***

I NEED ALL AVAILABLE DATA, INCLUDING WHAT IS ON HER COMPUTER

THERE ARE RULES HERE. I CAN'T--

I MADE A VOW TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF HELL'S KITCHEN-- AND NOW SOMEONE IS ***KILLING*** THEM TO ***TAUNT*** ME.

YOU CALLED ME IN. DON'T PRETEND YOU DIDN'T KNOW ***PRECISELY*** WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME LEADS. I CAN'T ***DEPUTIZE*** YOU.

I DON'T GIVE A ***DAMN*** WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T DO. I AM GOING TO STOP THIS, AND YOU ARE GOING TO ***HELP*** ME OR STAY OUT OF MY WAY.

UH, I DON'T KNOW THAT YOU WANT TO DO THIS HERE.

TRY IT.

EVERYONE STAND ***DOWN***! WE'RE VENTING STEAM HERE. THAT'S ALL.

PANTHER, LET'S TAKE A WALK.

I KNOW EMOTIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH, BUT YOU CAN'T PULL THAT KIND OF CRAP.

I DO NOT NEED TO BE ***HANDLED***, DETECTIVE KURTZ.

WILL YOU GIVE ME ACCESS TO THE EVIDENCE OR NOT?

I'M RELUCTANT TO ADMIT IT, BUT I THINK I HAVE TO PURSUE EVERY AVENUE.

THEN I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I FIND HIM.

YOU'LL LET ME KNOW ***BEFORE*** YOU FIND HIM. I WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE TAKEDOWN. IT'S GOTTA BE BY THE BOOK OR HE'LL WALK.

THAT'S THE ***DEAL***. CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY LEADS.

I CANNOT YET PROVE IT, BUT I SUSPECT I ALREADY KNOW HIS IDENTITY.

HOW?

THESE MURDERS ARE MEANT TO SEND ME A MESSAGE.

NOW IT'S TIME TO SEND MY ***REPLY***.

FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER.

SOFIJA. A WAITRESS WHEN I OPERATE MY DINER. MY ASSISTANT WHEN I'M ON THE HUNT.

THAT'S IT? YOU'VE FOUND THE KILLER AND THE NEXT VICTIM? IT'S THAT EASY?

IN HER NATIVE SERBIA SHE LEARNED SOME DANGEROUS AND IMPRESSIVE *SKILLS*. SHE DID NOT ALWAYS PUT THEM TO GOOD USE THEN. SHE DOES NOW.

HE'S BEEN SEEKING OUT VICTIMS USING AN INTERNET DATING SERVICE, AND HE LEFT PLENTY OF FOOTPRINTS FOR ME TO FOLLOW.

THEN YOU'RE WALKING INTO A *TRAP?*

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. IF WE DON'T PLAY BY HIS RULES, ANOTHER WOMAN WILL DIE TOMORROW NIGHT.

I NEED A SET OF EYES AND EARS, AND MAYBE YOUR MORE *SPECIALIZED* ABILITIES. IT WILL LIKELY BE *DANGEROUS.*

COUNT ME *IN.*

THE NEXT NIGHT.
8:45 PM.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. HE'S SO HANDSOME AND-- I DON'T KNOW-- CLASSY.

BZZZZZZZZ

OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD. HE'S EARLY. I HAVE TO GO.

COMING!

HI, YOU'RE SO EAR--

MEGAN JEDA? YOU REMEMBER THE PANTHER. THAT BANK ROBBERY HOSTAGE SITUATION HE SAVED YOU FROM A FEW WEEKS BACK?

I'M SOFIJA, BY THE WAY. GIRL WONDER.

SO, YEAH, A SERIAL KILLER IS STALKING YOU. WE'RE HERE TO KEEP YOU FROM BEING, YOU KNOW...***KILLED***. BY YOUR INTERNET DATE. WHO APPARENTLY THINKS IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO MURDER YOU IN ORDER TO TAUNT THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE.

SO, THAT'S THE SITCH.

BUT I...HE... UNHH...

WELL, THAT MAKES THINGS MORE COMPLICATED.

OR EASIER.

OR EASIER.

FORTY MINUTES LATER.

HUNTER, KNOWN AS THE WHITE WOLF. HIS PARENTS DIED IN A PLANE CRASH IN WAKANDA.

MY FATHER ADOPTED HIM, RAISED HIM AS HIS OWN ***SON***.

WHEN I WAS BORN, MY FATHER CONTINUED TO TREAT THE CHILD AS HIS OWN, BUT HUNTER UNDERSTOOD HE WOULD NEVER BE KING.

HE ***RESENTED*** ME FOR TAKING WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE HIS PLACE.

AS A MEMBER OF THE ***HATUT ZERAZE***, THE WAKANDAN SECRET POLICE, HE DID UNSPEAKABLE THINGS.

HE ALWAYS BELIEVED THE ENDS JUSTIFIED THE MEANS. HE WOULD DO ANYTHING, NO MATTER HOW DETESTABLE, TO ACCOMPLISH HIS GOALS.

HE FOUGHT ME REPEATEDLY, CLAIMING TO RESPECT THE WAKANDAN THRONE, IF NOT MY WORTHINESS TO SIT UPON IT.

HE ALWAYS BELIEVED ***HE*** SHOULD HAVE BEEN BLACK PANTHER.

HIS VIBRANIUM-ENHANCED SUIT GAVE HIM INCREDIBLE POWERS. HE MUST HAVE BEEN ***FURIOUS*** WHEN I DESTROYED THE WORLD'S SUPPLY OF OUR PRECIOUS METAL.

I CAN ONLY SUSPECT THIS RESENTMENT HAS DRIVEN HIM TO ATTEMPT TO DRAW ME OUT AND PROVE HIMSELF AGAINST ME.

THESE DEAD WOMEN, MERELY MEANS TO AN END.

FREEZE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

THIS ANTI-STRANGULATION COLLAR HURT MORE THAN ADVERTISED.

WHAT ARE THE CHARGES, OFFICER? I WAS INVITED IN BY MISS JEDA. I ENGAGED IN CONSENSUAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH NO ONE WAS HURT.

NICE TRY. LET'S TAKE IT TO THE PRECINCT AND SORT IT OUT.

IN THAT CASE...

I DECLINE.

NOW, I'M WALKING OUT OF HERE WITH THIS *HOSTAGE*. WHO IS GOING TO STOP ME?

NOT ME.

NICE AND EASY.

HE GOT AWAY. WITH SOFIJA AS A HOSTAGE. I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR PLAN B.

THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT I *EXPECTED* TO HAPPEN. IT IS STILL *MY* PLAN A.

WE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO DO IT YOUR WAY.

NOW WE TRY *MINE*.

HE WILL COME FOR ME.

UH, YEAH.

TELL ME. WHAT MAKES YOU SO ***SPECIAL*** THAT HE ALLOWS YOU TO AID HIM?

OH, THIS AND THAT. GROWING UP IN ***SERBIA*** I LEARNED ALL KINDS OF NEAT SKILLS.

THIEVERY, PICKING POCKETS, WEAPONS, MUNITIONS. BUT MOSTLY I THINK IT'S MY ***CHARM.***

IT'S ***FAILED*** YOU.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

I AM READY FOR HIM.

UNLIKELY.

THIS IS YOUR PLAN, HUNTER? TO ***ENRAGE*** ME, TO PUT ME OFF BALANCE, IN THE HOPES OF DEFEATING ME?

I WILL CRUSH YOU, THEN BECOME THE BLACK PANTHER, AS I ALWAYS ***SHOULD*** HAVE BEEN.

I NO LONGER HOLD THAT TITLE.

YOU THREW AWAY THAT HONOR...

BUT THIS VICTORY WILL PROVE WHAT I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.

ONLY ***I AM WORTHY.***

IT'S BEEN ALMOST NO CHALLENGE. YOU ARE EASILY ***TRICKED***, EASILY ***TRAPPED***, AND NOW EASILY ***KILLED***.

YOU WERE A ***FOOL*** TO DESTROY YOUR OWN VIBRANIUM WHEN WITHOUT IT, YOU ARE ***NOTHING***.

IN WAKANDA, THERE IS A TRADITION. A CHALLENGER MAY FACE THE BLACK PANTHER, AND IF HE IS VICTORIOUS, HE ***BECOMES*** THE BLACK PANTHER.

BLAM BLAM

BLAM

I SUPPOSE, IN HIS OWN TWISTED WAY, HUNTER WANTS TO BE ***ACCEPTED***. IT IS AN UNDERSTANDABLE GOAL.

WHAT...

BUT THE MEANS ARE UNTHINKABLY EVIL.

HOW?

YOU MIGHT REMEMBER WHEN I READ YOU MY RESUMÉ...

...IT INCLUDED ***PICKING POCKETS***. I REPLACED YOUR BULLETS WITH BLANKS. SO THAT MEANS...

...YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.

HOW COULD YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR THIS?

I CONSIDERED *EVERY* POSSIBILITY... AS *MY FATHER* TAUGHT ME.

VERY NICE. SO SMUG WITH YOUR LITTLE *TRICKS*. YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU CAN DEFEAT ME IN A FAIR FIGHT.

I ALWAYS HAVE BEFORE.

YOU HAD THE BETTER *TECH*. YOU SAVED THE *CUTTING EDGE* DESIGNS FOR YOURSELF.

NOW IT IS *MAN-TO-MAN*, JUST THE WAY I WANTED IT. IT IS TIME TO SHOW YOU WHO IS THE *TRUE* SON OF WAKANDA. IT IS TIME TO SEE WHO *DESERVES* TO BE BLACK PANTHER.

YOU WERE ADOPTED, BUT THAT IS NOT WHY YOU ARE WILL NEVER BE A TRUE SON OF WAKANDA.

YOU ALWAYS WISHED TO ***USE*** FATHER, AND LATER ME, AS AN EXCUSE FOR YOUR ***CRUELTY***.

CRACK

YOU KILLED ***INNOCENT*** PEOPLE, AND JUSTIFIED IT TO YOURSELF BY SAYING YOU DID IT FOR OUR NATION.

WAKANDA ***REJECTS*** YOU AND YOUR BLOODSHED.

WAKANDA IS TOO GREAT A NATION TO ALLOW YOU TO USE IT AS AN EXCUSE TO INDULGE IN PETTY BRUTALITY.

MY COUNTRY AND MY FAMILY ARE ***DONE*** WITH YOU.

AS WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN LONG AGO.

THIS IS GOING TO BE A JURISDICTIONAL NIGHTMARE, BUT NOT MY PROBLEM.

YOU GOT HIM.

WE ACHIEVED THIS GOAL TOGETHER.

ONCE YOU STOPPED ***OBSTRUCTING*** ME.

SO MUCH FOR THE MOMENT OF HUMILITY.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, WHICH I HOPE, FOR ALL OF OUR SAKES, IS NOT FOR A ***LONG*** TIME.

NICELY DONE. THAT BEGAN BADLY BUT ENDED WELL.

THREE PEOPLE ARE DEAD BECAUSE I ENTERED THEIR LIVES.

YOU CAN'T STOP HELPING PEOPLE BECAUSE A NUT MIGHT TRY TO DO SOMETHING CRAZY IN RETURN. CAN YOU?

BLACK PANTHER: THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE **#525**

THIS IS THE SECOND WAKANDAN-OWNED BUSINESS TARGETED TONIGHT. FOUR OF MY COUNTRYMEN ARE DEAD.

SOFIJA, ARE YOU EN ROUTE TO MY APARTMENT?

ON THE WAY.

I NEED YOU TO ACCESS MY COMPUTER, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO BYPASS MY FRONT DOOR.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M COMFORTABLE WITH BREAKING INTO YOUR PLACE, BOSS.

I CAN HEAR THAT YOU'RE DOING IT RIGHT NOW.

YEAH, YOU REALLY NEED BETTER LOCKS.

CLICK CLICK CLICK

PLUG THE NAMES OF THE VICTIMS INTO MY DATABASE. SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND LINKING THEM.

AND SOFIJA, JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T EVER TURN EVIL. YOU'RE TOO ***DANGEROUS***.

DON'T WORRY, BOSS. BEEN THERE, DONE THAT. THIS IS MORE **FUN**.

CHATTER ON THE POLICE SCANNER. AN EXPLOSION. 29TH STREET. WAKANDAN-OWNED.

THIS ASSAULT IS NOT OVER YET.

BUT IT WILL BE ***SOON***. I WILL ***SEE*** TO THAT.

ANOTHER VICTIM, PRESUMABLY A WAKANDAN NATIONAL...

I STILL DON'T KNOW *WHY*...

BUT I BEGIN TO SEE *WHO*.

THE HAND. AN INTERNATIONAL CULT OF NINJA ASSASSINS WHO HAVE BUILT A ***STRONGHOLD*** IN THE CENTER OF HELL'S KITCHEN.

THEY ARE LED BY ***WILSON FISK***, ONCE KNOWN AS THE ***KINGPIN OF CRIME***.

I'VE RECENTLY LEARNED OF THE HAND'S INTEREST IN MY HOMELAND.

I MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL, BUT THERE IS NO MISTAKING THE *COST*.

THE KINGPIN WANTS THIS WOMAN DEAD.

THEREFORE SHE STAYS *ALIVE*.

NOW SHE IS UNDER MY PROTECTION...AND HE IS MY QUARRY.

THE KINGPIN OF WAKANDA

SHADOWLAND.

ARE THEY ALL ELIMINATED?

MIYU, YOUR HESITATION SUGGESTS THEY ARE NOT. I HAVE *PROMOTED* YOU TO MY *CONSIGLIERE* BECAUSE I DEPEND UPON YOUR CANDOR.

I AM SORRY, LORD FISK. THERE HAS BEEN A *COMPLICATION.*

CRACK

WHACK

THOOM

MY LORD, THEY WERE THREE OF OUR BEST. HOW COULD YOU DEFEAT THEM SO QUICKLY?

I'VE SEEN THEM FIGHT ONCE BEFORE, AND SAW EACH HAD A WEAKNESS. THAT'S ALL I REQUIRE.

NOW, WHAT IS THE FULL STATUS?

MY LORD, ONE OF THE TARGETS HAS ESCAPED DEATH. I DO NOT KNOW THE EXTENT OF HER INJURIES, BUT SHE IS NOW ON HER WAY TO THE HOSPITAL.

A TEMPORARY SETBACK. SHE CAN BE DEALT WITH WHEN SHE ARRIVES.

THE *PANTHER* IS IN PURSUIT.

MIYU, YOU HAVE SERVED THE HAND LONG. YOUR *DEVOTION* WAS LEGENDARY BEFORE I BECAME YOUR LORD. I DON'T DOUBT YOUR ABILITY TO CARRY OUT MY ORDERS, BUT I HAVE NOT TOLD YOU EVERYTHING...

YET.

IT WAS NEVER POSSIBLE TO EXECUTE THIS PLAN WITHOUT ATTRACTING THE PANTHER'S NOTICE. THAT HE NOW PURSUES THE WOMAN IS NOT A PROBLEM.

IT IS AN *OPPORTUNITY.*

HE IS A DANGEROUS MAN, MIYU, BUT I KNOW WHAT HE INTENDS. HE KNOWS *NOTHING* OF WHAT I INTEND.

THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE. *OURS.*

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

SEVERAL BROKEN BONES, DOZENS OF STITCHES, HEAD TRAUMA. HER CONDITION IS SERIOUS, BUT NOT GRAVE.

THE AUTHORITIES TAKE THE MATTER SERIOUSLY, BUT IF THE KINGPIN IS BEHIND THESE ATTEMPTS, THE POLICE WILL NOT BE *ENOUGH*.

*BOSS, THE WOMAN IS **K'TAMO CHATARKO**, AND LIKE VICTIMS IN THE OTHER TWO BLASTS, SHE'S ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE **BANK OF WAKANDA**.*

UNDERSTOOD. GOOD WORK.

INTERESTING. KINGPIN'S GOALS ARE STILL NOT CLEAR, BUT THEY BEGIN TO MOVE INTO *FOCUS*.

SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT.

THE SHADOWS UNDER THE DOOR...

IF ASSASSINS ARE MAKING THEIR MOVE, AN *INDIRECT* APPROACH IS BEST.

THE ATTACK IS BRAZEN. THEY ARE RISKING *EVERYTHING* TO GET TO K'TAMO.

AN ENEMY WHO KNOWS HOW TO TURN *ANYTHING* INTO A DEADLY WEAPON.

LITTLE TIME TO ACT...

KREESH

MORE DEAD INNOCENTS. I'VE GOT TO GET K'TAMO OUT OF HERE.

BEST BET IS THE STAIRS IF--

A STAIRWELL

THAT WON'T WORK.

THERE WAS NO WAY THE ELEVATORS WOULD BE FUNCTIONAL, BUT I HAD TO CHECK.

THIS LOUNGE, THESE WINDOWS, THE POOL ON THE ROOF...WORTH KEEPING IN MIND IF I BECOME SUFFICIENTLY DESPERATE.

CLEARLY THE ASSASSINS ARE NOT TARGETING PEOPLE NEEDLESSLY. THAT IS SOMETHING. THOSE WHO ARE IN DANGER ARE ALREADY DEAD.

I CAN'T RISK FIGHTING THEM WITH K'TAMO TO PROTECT.

FOR NOW I NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO LAY LOW UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE.

NNGGGH!

HER STITCHES ARE RIPPED. HER BONES HAVE BEEN UN-SET. SHE IS IN AGONY.

K'TAMO, YOU MUST BE STRONG. FOR *WAKANDA.*

YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

YES, MY KING.

I AM NO LONGER YOUR KING, BUT I STILL STAND FOR OUR COUNTRY.

AN ENEMY PLOTS AGAINST US, AND RIGHT NOW THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN STOP HIM ARE YOU AND I.

BUT *WHY?* I RECEIVED NO THREATS. I HAVE NO ENEMIES.

CLEARLY YOU *DO*.

THE POLICE...

THE HAND WON'T RISK A FULL-SCALE WAR WITH THE CITY. I'VE ALERTED THE AUTHORITIES, AND THEY WILL BE HERE SOON.

BUT NOT SOON ENOUGH.

JUST A FLICKERING SHADOW, NOTHING MORE. IT IS THE MOST WARNING I COULD HOPE TO EXPECT.

I DID NOT WISH TO CONFRONT THESE WARRIORS NOW. BUT THERE IS NO CHOICE.

I MUST BRING THE FIGHT TO THEM.

THEY ARE SAID TO BE THE WORLD'S MOST ***HIGHLY TRAINED*** KILLERS. YET THAT DOES NOT MAKE THEM THE ***BEST.***

THE BLACK MAMBA IS AMONG THE DEADLIEST SNAKES IN AFRICA. IT HAS NO TRAINING--ONLY SPEED, AGILITY, AND VENOM.

THE MAMBA'S SPEED CAN BE ITS WEAKNESS, HOWEVER.

ANTICIPATE WHAT IT WILL DO, AND THEN ***SURPRISE*** IT.

OTHER THAN MAN, THE DEADLIEST ***MAMMAL*** IN AFRICA IS THE HIPPOPOTAMUS. SOME QUESTION HOW THIS CAN BE WHEN IT IS SO LARGE AND ***LUMBERING.***

BUT WHEN ANGRY, FRIGHTENED OR SIMPLY TERRITORIAL, IT IS AN ***UNSTOPPABLE*** FORCE.

IT IS NEVER WISE TO BE IN ITS WAY.

BUT I MUST NOT FORGET THAT THE DEADLIEST ***CREATURE*** IN ALL OF AFRICA REMAINS THE MOSQUITO--STEALTHY AND HIDDEN AND ATTACKING UNSEEN.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO COMBAT THE INSECT.

SWATTING REMAINS THE MOST SATISFYING.

BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DEFEND YOURSELF WHEN THEY APPEAR IN GREAT NUMBERS.

AND, IN THE LONG RUN, THE MOSQUITO ALWAYS WINS. WHICH PRESENTS AN INTERESTING QUESTION.

WE CAN NO LONGER REMAIN IN ONE LOCATION.

YOU DEFEATED THEM ALL.

I DID *NOT* DEFEAT THEM.

THEY *ALLOWED* ME TO DEFEAT THEM. THEY WERE A *DISTRACTION.*

FOR *WHAT?*

TO WEAR ME OUT BEFORE THE *TRUE* ASSASSIN STRIKES.

BUT WHEN...

NOW!

SHE IS SWIFT, RESOURCEFUL AND DETERMINED. I KNOW *WHOM* I FACE, AND I KNOW THE ODDS.

MY BEST HOPE IS THAT SHE DOES NOT SUFFICIENTLY FEAR ME.

LADY BULLSEYE.

EXPERT AIM. AMAZING AGILITY AND STAMINA. RUTHLESS.

TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS FOOLISHNESS.

NO MARGIN FOR ERROR.

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FIGHT HER AND PROTECT K'TAMO. LADY BULLSEYE KNOWS THAT.

THE LOUNGE IS MY ONLY WAY OUT. SHE KNOWS THAT TOO.

AT LEAST IT IS *SUPPOSED* TO BE, AND IT HAS BEEN LEFT OPEN ON PURPOSE.

AND THAT MEANS IT IS NOT A WAY OUT AT ALL.

IF THAT GLASS BREAKS, THE EXPLOSIVE IT TRIGGERS WILL TAKE OUT HALF THIS FLOOR. MY ONLY OPTION IS NO OPTION AT ALL.

CHNK

WHICH MEANS I MUST INVENT A NEW ONE.

BOOM

UHHH...

STAY *HERE* AND STAY *DOWN.*

I WANT TO LIVE...

IT IS *NOT* ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT. *THEY* WANT YOU DEAD, BUT *WAKANDA* NEEDS YOU TO LIVE.

YOU *WILL* LIVE.

YES, MY KING.

THEN LET US SEE THEM TRY TO STOP US.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

TIME TO GO.

NO... THERE ARE TWO.

I'VE NEVER KILLED A *KING* BEFORE. I WONDER IF IT WILL BE FUN.

LET'S FIND OUT.

TYPHOID MARY.

TELEKINESIS. PYROKINESIS. CRAZINESS.

I HAVE THE WOMAN.

HE'S ALL YOURS, MARY.

BURN, KITTY... *BURN!*

BLACK PANTHER: THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE **#526**

THE KINGPIN--LEADER OF THE HAND ASSASSIN GUILD--HAS TARGETED THE BANK OF WAKANDA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HE'S SENT LADY BULLSEYE AND TYPHOID MARY TO FINISH THE JOB.

THE ONLY THING THAT STANDS IN THE WAY IS ME.

PREPARE YOURSELF. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET... DANGEROUS.

WHAT WERE THEY BEFORE?

DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS, K'TAMO HAS SURVIVED THE NIGHT.

I DON'T YET KNOW WHAT THE KINGPIN HAS IN MIND, BUT I KNOW I HAVE TO KEEP HER *ALIVE*.

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

I CAN'T HOLD OFF TWO ASSASSINS INDEFINITELY.

THE NUMBERS DON'T ADD UP IN MY FAVOR.

TIME TO *CHANGE* THE ODDS.

THAT BOUGHT ME A FEW SECONDS.

SKREESH

I MUST MAKE THEM *COUNT.*

TIME FOR A BIT OF THEATER. I'VE SEEN SLY SHAMANS PULL THIS TRICK.

CREATE A DISTRACTION.

K-TUNG

ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO WATCH YOU TO LOOK AWAY.

FWOOSH

AND VANISH.

SOFIJA SET EVERYTHING UP BEFORE I ARRIVED.

HOTEL

I NEED YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON, YOU WANT ME TO PLAY NURSE?

IT WILL BE LESS *NURTURING* THAN THAT.

A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE SUDDENLY SEEMS MORE *INTERESTING.*

WE ALWAYS TRY TO AVOID BLOODSHED, BUT IF THE *HAND* SHOULD FIND YOU, SHOOT TO *KILL.* DON'T HESITATE. THEY WILL NOT.

AND WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

SOMETHING DRASTIC.

SHADOWLAND. HEADQUARTERS OF THE HAND.

YOU *IMPRESS* ME, MIYU. YOU REMAIN FIRMLY PLANTED, AND I AM NOT HOLDING BACK.

CRACK

IT IS MY *TRAINING*, MY LORD. POWER CAN BE ABSORBED, DISPERSED, DEFLECTED.

AND ONE MIGHT ARGUE THAT YOU ARE SWIFT AND AGILE, THOUGH YOU ARE A LARGE MAN.

SPEED AND AGILITY DO NOT HAVE TO BE A FUNCTION OF *SIZE.*

INDEED, THAT IS TRUE, MY LORD.

ANY WORTHY OPPONENT WILL HAVE OBVIOUS STRENGTHS. THE KEY IS TO ANTICIPATE THE *UNEXPECTED* STRENGTHS.

THE SURPRISED ENEMY IS *TRULY VULNERABLE.*

AS I AM NOW, MY LORD.

THAT WAS *GROSS.*

YOUR REPORT?

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD DISMISS YOUR *UNDERLING.*

MIYU *STAYS.*

VERY WELL, I SHALL BEGIN.

THE PANTHER HAS BEHAVED *PRECISELY* AS YOU PREDICTED.

YESTERDAY, THERE WERE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE BANK OF WAKANDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN NEW YORK CITY.

TODAY, TWO ARE DEAD...

...ONE IS INJURED AND UNDER MY PROTECTION...

...AND ONE IS *MISSING.*

TIME TO FIND OUT WHY.

I CONCLUDE THERE ARE TOO MANY SUPER HEROES IN NEW YORK WHEN THE DOORMAN OF THIS BUILDING DOES NOT WISH TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS WITHOUT RECEIVING A *GRATUITY*.

222

222

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO NEGOTIATE TERMS TO MY ADVANTAGE.

AND--AND THEN HE MOVED OUT WITHOUT GIVING NO WARNING. I GOT THE ADDRESS WRITTEN DOWN, BUT HE TOLD ME IT WAS JUST FOR MAIL--NOT TO GIVE IT TO NO ONE.

NOW WILL YOU LET ME DOWN?

THE MISSING BOARD MEMBER MOVED TWO DAYS BEFORE THE ATTACK. PERHAPS A COINCIDENCE.

PERHAPS HE SOMEHOW LEARNED HE WAS IN DANGER AND WENT INTO HIDING.

OR PERHAPS HE WAS *COMPLICIT*.

TO REVISE MY EARLIER ANALYSIS, TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE DEAD, ONE IS INJURED...

...AND ONE HAS HAND NINJAS FOR *BODYGUARDS.*

LAST TIME I FOUGHT THE HAND, THEY WERE STALKING ME, *THEY* CHOSE WHEN TO ATTACK.

THIS TIME I AM THE *PREDATOR.*

THEY WILL EXPECT TROUBLE, OF COURSE. FOUR OF THEM, AND ONE OF ME.

STILL, I *LIKE* THESE ODDS.

THE HAND ARE SAID TO BE THE ***DEADLIEST*** ASSASSINS IN THE WORLD.

PERHAPS THAT IS SO, BUT THEIR REPUTATION HAS BEEN EARNED BY THEIR USE OF ***SURPRISE***, ***SPEED***, AND ***STEALTH***.

WHEN I WAS KING OF ***WAKANDA***, I LEARNED TO DEFEAT ANY ENEMY BY TAKING AWAY ***ONE THING*** UPON WHICH HE DEPENDED.

IT TAKES ONLY ***ONE***.

I CANNOT TAKE AWAY THEIR SPEED OR THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

STEALTH MEANS NOTHING IN AN OPEN FIGHT. I HAVE BUT ONE OPTION.

I MUST ***SURPRISE*** MY ENEMIES.

TO DEFEAT WOULD-BE USURPERS, I COMMITTED MYSELF TO ALWAYS BEING ONE STEP AHEAD, BUT THAT WAS NOT ALWAYS ENOUGH.

THIP

THIP

THIP

THIP

THIP

IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, THERE ARE OTHER TOOLS OF SURVIVAL.

ADAPTING...

...IMPROVISING...

...USING AN ENEMY'S STRENGTH *AGAINST* HIM...

...AND THEN, ONCE AN ENEMY IS CONFUSED, SURPRISED, ON GUARD AGAINST THE NEXT UNKNOWN STRATEGY...

...THAT IS THE TIME FOR *BRUTE FORCE.*

LET US HAVE A *CONVERSATION.*

OF COURSE, I WILL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW.

I DID NOT WISH FOR THEM TO BE HERE, AND I WILL COOPERATE FULLY.

CRACK

AHHHHH!

SOME KIND OF MODIFIED TETRODOTOXIN, TO INDUCE PARALYSIS AND ***SIMULATE*** DEATH.

YOU WISH TO IMPERSONATE THE ACTIONS OF A FANATIC. BUT IN FACT YOU ARE A *COWARD.*

AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I THEREFORE CONCLUDE?

YOU WILL TELL ME *WHATEVER* I WISH TO KNOW.

AHHHH! STOP! *PLEASE!* I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO COOPERATE. I EITHER DID HIS BIDDING OR I *DIED!*

TELL ME EVERYTHING...OR YOU MAY YET *STILL* DIE.

HE MEANS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE *BANK.*

"I NEED NOT EXPLAIN IT TO YOU... THE GLOBAL ***RECESSION***, THE LOSS OF ***VIBRANIUM***, THE CHAOS OF THE ***HAMMER-WIELDERS***.

"WAKANDA HAS WEATHERED THE ECONOMY BETTER THAN MANY COUNTRIES, BUT WE ARE NOT ***IMMUNE***.

"YOU ALSO KNOW THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS ALWAYS HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE BANK OF WAKANDA.

"THE PRINCESS REGENT HAS USED HER INFLUENCE TO ENSURE THE BANK GIVES DEBTORS TIME TO REPAY THEIR LOANS, BUT THERE ARE MANY ACCOUNTS IN ARREARS.

"IF THE BANK WISHED, IT COULD FORECLOSE ON ***MILLIONS OF ACRES***, AND THOSE ACRES CONTAIN UNEXPLOITED RESOURCES: ***GOLD, SILVER, COPPER, OIL, NATURAL GAS***, AND A DOZEN OTHERS."

MR. FISK IS ATTEMPTING TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE BOARD TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE BANK.

HE WILL THEN ***FORECLOSE*** ON THOSE PROPERTIES, AND OWN SOME OF THE MOST VALUABLE UNEXPLOITED LAND IN THE WORLD.

HE WANTS THE BANK SO HE CAN HAVE ***WAKANDA*** ITSELF.

THEN THIS IS NOTHING SHORT OF ***WAR***.

MY LORD, THAT IS A RISKY STRATEGY.

WITHOUT *RISK*, MIYU, THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF *REWARD*.

BUT TAKING TOO GREAT A RISK COURTS *DESTRUCTION*.

THAT'S NOT NECESSARY, MIYU. IF HE WERE GOING TO ATTACK, HE WOULD HAVE DONE SO BY NOW.

HE HAS ALREADY FOUGHT LADY BULLSEYE AND TYPHOID MARY, AND HAS NO WISH TO DO SO AGAIN.

THEY WATCH US EVEN NOW, WAITING ONLY FOR MY *COMMAND*.

SHADOWLAND CREW QUARTERS.

DO YOU HAVE THE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH BECAUSE I DON'T SEE THE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH.

THIS IS COOKIES AND CREAM.

THEN WHERE'S THE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH?

YOUR *THIGHS?*

YOU CANNOT THINK I HAVEN'T BEEN WATCHING YOU.

I *KNOW* WHERE THEY ARE.

IF YOU WISHED TO SUMMON AID YOU WOULD HAVE DONE SO. I THINK WE UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER.

MIYU, YOU ARE DISMISSED.

MY LORD--

DISMISSED!

I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE ATTEMPTING, AND YOU CANNOT THINK I SHALL PERMIT IT.

HOW CAN YOU STOP ME? I SHALL ALWAYS REMAIN SEVERAL MOVES AHEAD OF YOU. CHECK.

ARE YOU CERTAIN? KNOW THAT IF WE PLAY THIS GAME, ONE OF US IS GOING TO **LOSE**.

CHECK-MATE.

YOU'VE BEEN **WARNED.**

PRECISELY AS YOU PREDICTED, MY LORD.

IT WENT PRECISELY AS I PREDICTED.

HE IS ARROGANT, AND WILL BELIEVE HE CAN MANIPULATE ME, SO FOR NOW I STEP WHERE HE ***EXPECTS*** ME TO STEP.

AND THEN, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, WE ***SURPRISE*** HIM.

BUT WE MUST NOT ***UNDERESTIMATE*** HIM.

SO, THIS MEANS YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR ***"WORKING ALONE"*** THING?

BECAUSE THAT WAS GETTING ***OLD.***

A MORE ***POWERFUL*** ENEMY REQUIRES A MORE ***COMPLEX*** STRATEGY.

THEN WHAT IS THE PLAN?

THE PLAN IS WE *TAKE OUT* THE HAND AND WILSON FISK.

I *LIKE* THAT PLAN.

FRAN CAVIL 4.11
HERE COMES THE
PAIN

THERE IS A *WAR* RAGING IN NEW YORK CITY.

IT IS FOUGHT IN THE *SHADOWS*, AND FOR ALL ITS SECRECY, IT IS NO LESS DEADLY.

WILSON FISK, ONCE THE *KINGPIN OF CRIME*, NOW LEADER OF THE ASSASSIN GUILD KNOWN AS *THE HAND*, INTENDS TO GAIN CONTROL OF MY NATIVE LAND WAKANDA THROUGH ITS NATIONAL BANK.

FISK IS TARGETING ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SO HE CAN REPLACE THEM WITH HIS OWN PUPPETS.

NOT LONG AGO I ENTRUSTED MY THRONE TO MY SISTER SHURI BECAUSE, WOUNDED AS I WAS, I WAS NO LONGER FIT TO RULE. BUT I AM WAKANDAN AND I WILL *FIGHT* FOR MY COUNTRY.

THIS IS A WAR I WILL NOT *LOSE*.

I MANAGED TO SAVE *K'TAMO CHATARKO*, ONE OF FISK'S WOULD-BE VICTIMS, FROM HIS TOP ASSASSINS--*LADY BULLSEYE* AND *TYPHOID MARY*.

MY ASSOCIATE *SOFIJA* IS WATCHING OVER HER IN A SECRET LOCATION. SECRETS CAN'T BE KEPT FOR LONG, HOWEVER, AND IN TIME FISK WILL FIND K'TAMO. I WILL BE *READY*.

IN THE MEANTIME...

...THERE ARE MATTERS THAT REQUIRE MY *ATTENTION.*

IN THE PAST WEEK THIS MAN HAS RECEIVED THREE CALLS FROM CELL PHONES THE F.B.I. HAS TRACED TO THE HAND STRONGHOLD ***SHADOWLAND.*** NOT THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE SHARING INTEL WITH ME. ***WILLINGLY.***

MR. J'BARO OF THE JABARI CLAN. MEMBER OF THE BANK OF WAKANDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

YOU'RE LATE, DRIVER.

J'BARO

ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR BAG, SIR.

YOUR *ACCENT*. YOU ARE WAKANDAN?

YES, SIR.

YOU ARE LUCKY TO LIVE HERE. THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS CERTAINLY DONE A NUMBER ON OUR COUNTRY.

YES, SIR.

I'M FROM THE JABARI CLAN. A MAN LIKE M'BAKU WOULD NEVER HAVE DESTROYED OUR VIBRANIUM LIKE THAT *FOOL*, T'CHALLA.

YES, SIR.

YOU ARE A SON OF WAKANDA. EVEN A *CHAUFFEUR* IS PERMITTED AN OPINION. WHAT DO *YOU* THINK OF OUR CURRENT SITUATION?

I SUSPECT A *WEALTHY MAN* LIKE YOURSELF KNOWS YOUR BUSINESS. YOU OWN A LARGE CHAIN OF GROCERY STORES.

HA! MY *REPUTATION* PRECEDES ME.

YES...I HAVE READ ABOUT HOW, AS TIMES HAVE BECOME HARDER, YOU HAVE INCREASED YOUR PRICES TO EXPLOIT THE CITIZENRY.

YOU *PROFIT* WHILE OTHERS *SUFFER*.

NO... *LIES* FROM MY COMPETITORS...

AND NOW, WHEN THERE HAVE BEEN *MURDERS* OF MEMBERS OF THE BANK'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HERE YOU ARE ASKING TO BE TAKEN VERY CLOSE TO *SHADOWLAND*.

THIS *TROUBLES* ME.

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO-- WAIT A MINUTE, I KNOW YOUR *FACE*. YOU'RE--

SKRRRREEEEEEEEE

KRASH

I HAVE AN AUTHORIZATION OF PROXY, WHICH I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SIGN. IT GIVES YOUR ***VOTE*** TO THE AGENT WHOM I CHOOSE.

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN ***PLUMMET*** INTO THE RIVER.

IT IS ***YOU***. YOU DESTROYED WAKANDA'S ECONOMY AND THEN TURNED YOUR BACK ON THE MESS YOU MADE. YOU ARE A ***COWARD***!

I WILL ***NEVER*** GIVE INTO YOUR DEMANDS. I WILL ***DIE*** FIRST!

A MAN LIKE YOU MAY CLING TO ***HONOR*** ABOVE LIFE, BUT HE WILL CLING TO ***MONEY*** ABOVE ALL ELSE.

SCREEEEK

HELLO? YES...

PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF A MAJORITY SHARE OF J'BARO'S MARKET, AND THEN INSTRUCT ALL STORES TO IMMEDIATELY DISTRIBUTE FOOD AT ***COST***.

NO!

HOLD ONE MOMENT. THE SITUATION MAY BE ***EVOLVING***.

I...I'LL SIGN.

YAAH!

SPLOOSH

YOU'RE *MAD!*

A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

YES, PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE AND THE DISCOUNTING OF FOOD.

NO! YOU *PROMISED!*

I MADE NO PROMISE TO *YOU*. BUT I LONG AGO SWORE TO MY NATION NEVER TO TOLERATE THOSE WHO WOULD HARM IT FOR THEIR OWN PROFIT. WAKANDA IS MY HOME, AND I WILL NEVER TURN MY BACK ON IT.

I'VE RUINED YOU AS FIT PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR *GREED*, J'BARO, BUT YOU SHOULD TAKE HEART...

...WILSON FISK WOULD HAVE DONE FAR *WORSE*.

SHADOWLAND.

MIYU, NOW THAT I'VE CONFIDED IN YOU ABOUT THE NATURE OF THIS PLAN, THERE ARE SOME...*FINER POINTS* I WOULD HAVE YOU KNOW.

BUT I MUST KNOW YOUR LOYALTY IS *COMPLETE.* YOUR LOYALTY TO *ME*, NOT TO THE HAND AS IT WAS BEFORE, BUT AS IT IS *NOW. UNDER ME.*

OF COURSE, MY LORD. I AM LOYAL TO YOU. *ONLY* YOU.

I HAVE COMMITTED CONSIDERABLE *RESOURCES* TO THIS PROJECT--*PERSONAL* AS WELL AS THE HAND'S. SUCCESS WILL ELEVATE US TO NEW LEVELS OF *POWER* AND *INFLUENCE.*

THE HAND WILL WIELD THE POWER OF A NATION--A *STRONG* NATION.

THE *RESOURCES* WE WILL CONTROL IN WAKANDA WILL ALTER THE BALANCE OF POWER *WORLDWIDE.*

BUT THE COST OF *FAILURE* WOULD BE *DEVASTATING*--TO ME AND TO THE HAND. I MUST HAVE YOUR FULL SUPPORT.

YOU HAVE IT, MY LORD.

I DISLIKE HER.

HATE HER.

HER *AMBITION* NEEDS TO BE *CONTAINED.*

WHAT SHE NEEDS IS A KICK IN HER OLD BUTT.

YES. PERHAPS *RITUAL HUMILIATION* IS WHAT IS CALLED FOR.

YOU KNOW WHAT? I MAY HAVE *MISJUDGED* YOU. YOU'RE WAY MORE *FUN* THAN I THOUGHT.

WE'VE DECIDED WE DON'T LIKE YOU.

WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS? YOU THINK TO *FIGHT* ME? HOW DO YOU HOPE TO WIN?

BY *OUTNUMBERING* YOU. MOSTLY.

HOW *DARE* YOU? I FOUGHT FOR THE HAND BEFORE YOU HIT PUBERTY.

THAT'S KIND OF THE POINT, *OLD LADY.*

I DON'T CARE HOW OLD YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE. I ONLY CARE THAT YOU ARE *DISTRACTING* OUR LEADER.

A *DISTRACTED* LEADER IS A DANGEROUS BUSINESS.

I HAVE THROWN MY LOT IN WITH WILSON FISK AND WITH THE HAND. I WISH TO BE *REWARDED* FOR MY EFFORTS.

DISTRACT HIM NO MORE.

TYPHOID MARY... LADY BULLSEYE... HAVE YOU FOUND K'TAMO YET?

NOT YET.

MASTER, OUR AGENTS ARE *SEARCHING.*

I SUGGEST YOU ***JOIN*** THE SEARCH.

HI, MIYU. TOUGH DAY, HUH?

GASP!

HOTEL

OKAY, HERE'S WHERE OUR INTEL PLACES HER.

THIT THIT THIT THIT THIT THIT

THAT SOUNDS WRONG...

LET'S SEE WHAT--

FWOOSH

OOPS.

ELSEWHERE.

K'TAMO, NOW UNDER THE CARE OF NIGHT NURSE, THE UNDERGROUND HEALER OF NEW YORK'S COSTUMED VIGILANTES.

EVENING, LADIES.

BLAM BLAM

K'TAMO HAS BEEN MOVED TO WHERE SHE CAN'T BE HARMED. UNLIKE *YOU.*

KRESH

I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER, *GIRLIE.* I HAVE A KITTY TO COOK.

OUCH!

AN IMPROVISED *X-GENE SUPPRESSANT.* IF MY RECIPE IS CORRECT, IT WILL SIDELINE TYPHOID MARY'S TELEKINETIC AND PYROKINETIC ABILITIES.

WHAT DID YOU--

MUCH AS I SUSPECTED, SHE HAS A GLASS JAW.

THIS HAS BEEN A *LONG TIME* COMING.

ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE *FOOLISH* ENOUGH TO CONTINUE CROSSING MY PATH.

BEFORE WE'VE FOUGHT WHEN I'VE BEEN OUTNUMBERED OR COMPELLED TO PROTECT ANOTHER.

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN DEFEAT ME *NOW?*

BECAUSE I AM VERY *ANGRY.*

SHHHHHTTTTTT

IN MY EXPERIENCE....

...THAT MEANS THE ADVANTAGE IS *MINE.*

THE MASTER *STRATEGIST,* WHO THOUGHT TO LEAD US INTO A TRAP.

LOOK ABOVE...

ALL ALONG, THE *TRAP* WAS *OURS.*

HAH

DOUBLE PSYCH!

STILL THINK THE TRAP WAS *YOURS?*

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

COLD LOGIC DEFEATS ANGER. EVERY TIME.

MAN, I *HATE* NINJAS.

KRAK

BUDDA BUDDA

CHECK YOUR *AIM*, WAITRESS!

DON'T BE SUCH A CRYBABY, CAGE. YOU'VE GOT *UNBREAKABLE SKIN.*

DOESN'T MEAN IT FEELS *GOOD.*

WHUD

YOUR ALLIES WON'T BE ENOUGH. YOU ARE STILL *OUTNUMBERED.*

NOW IT'S TIME FOR *YOU* TO LOOK.

YOUR LOYAL TROOPS DESERT YOU.

THAT MAY BE SO...

...BUT I AM NOT OUT OF *WEAPONS.*

FWOOM FWOOM

I COULD GO AFTER HER.

NO NEED, FALCON. WE *KNOW* WHERE SHE'S GOING.

SO, WHAT'S OUR *NEXT MOVE?* YOU CAN'T LET HER REGROUP.

HELL'S KITCHEN MAY BE UNDER MY PROTECTION, BUT I ALSO FIGHT FOR WAKANDA NOW, AND I HAVE LEFT NOTHING TO CHANCE.

THE PIECES ARE ALMOST IN PLACE. ONLY A COUPLE OF DETAILS TO TEND TO...

...AND THEN THE KINGPIN IS *FINISHED.*

LATER.

MIYU, REPORT. HAS K'TAMO BEEN REMOVED?

NO, MY LORD. THE PANTHER LED OUR PEOPLE INTO A *TRAP.*

WE LOST MANY OF OUR NUMBER. LADY BULLSEYE AND TYPHOID MARY WERE *FORTUNATE* TO ESCAPE *ALIVE.*

THIS WILL NOT *STAND.*

KRNCH

HE THINKS TO *DEFY* ME, TO RISK ALL THAT I HAVE BUILT, TO RISK THE *HAND* ITSELF. DOES HE TRULY BELIEVE I WILL *ALLOW* THIS?

HE IS A *MASTER PLANNER.* HE THINKS FOUR MOVES AHEAD. THERE IS BUT ONE WAY TO *DEFEAT* A MAN SUCH AS THAT.

HOW, MY LORD?

BY BEHAVING IRRATIONALLY. THAT IS SOMETHING HE *CANNOT PREDICT.*

WAKANDA.

"WE MUST DO WHAT HE WOULD NOT THINK WE WOULD *DARE* TO DO.

"STRIKE WHERE WE WOULD DARE NOT.

THE PALACE COURTYARD.

"HIS PEOPLE'S SECURITY TECHNOLOGY IS AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD, BUT THE HAND IS UNSURPASSED IN *INFILTRATION*.

"THE PANTHER BELIEVES HE FIGHTS FOR WAKANDA. LET HIM SEE WHAT HIS FIGHT WILL *COST* HIM.

"IF HE WANTS A WAR, HE CAN HAVE ONE... BUT ON *MY* TERMS."

NO BOUNDARIES AND NO MERCY.

SCORCHED EARTH.

BLACK PANTHER: THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE **#528**

WAKANDA, AFRICA. THE ROYAL PALACE.

WILSON FISK--ONCE THE KINGPIN OF CRIME, AND NOW THE LEADER OF THE NINJA CULT THE HAND--HAS SET HIS SIGHTS ON OWNING WAKANDA'S VAST NATURAL RESOURCES.

I HAVE CONSISTENTLY THWARTED HIS EFFORTS AS HE MANIPULATES HIS FORCES FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY.

IN AN ACT OF DESPERATION, HE HAS DONE THE ONE THING HE FELT CERTAIN I COULD NOT PREDICT. HE HAS SENT HIS ASSASSINS TO ATTACK THE ROYAL PALACE ITSELF.

INNOCENT PEOPLE, MARKED FOR SLAUGHTER.

BUT FISK IS WRONG. IT IS NOT SO EASY TO CATCH MY PEOPLE *UNPREPARED.*

FOR *WAKANDA!*

THIS *OUTRAGE* WILL NOT *STAND!*

CHOOM

CHOOM CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM CHOOM

LOOK... SHE HAS ARRIVED!

IT IS *SHURI*, THE PRINCESS REGENT!

WE NOW FIGHT BESIDE THE *BLACK PANTHER!*

BLAM

NINJAS? IN MY HOME?

YOU DARE ATTACK OUR SACRED PALACE...

...WHEN IT IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF WAKANDA'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS?

THAT'S PRETTY DAMN STUPID.

HAVE NO FEARS, BROTHER. WE WERE FULLY *PREPARED*. NO CASUALTIES...ON *OUR* SIDE.

THAT'S GOOD NEWS.

KINGPIN IS GOING TO BE ANGRY.

HE IS GOING TO BE *VERY* ANGRY. AND SOON, I HAVE A FEELING HE IS GOING TO BE EVEN *ANGRIER*.

ARMORED SECURITY

YOU SOUND DISTRACTED, T'CHALLA.

IT IS KIND OF YOU TO CARE, SISTER, BUT I HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

I HOPE YOU AREN'T TRYING TO HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL ALL BY *YOURSELF*.

NO, THIS TIME, I HAVE A *SUPPORT STAFF*.

MOLLY'S

WHAM

SUPPORT STAFF MY BULLET-PROOF *BEHIND*. TELL HER I CONVINCED YOU TO GIVE UP THAT *GO-IT-ALONE* CRAP.

SHE'LL BE GLAD TO HEAR YOU'VE FINALLY WISED UP AND STARTED DOING THINGS *MY* WAY.

I MUST GO, SISTER. I CAN'T FIGHT NINJAS, TALK TO YOU, AND LISTEN TO LUKE CAGE BE *ANNOYING* AT THE SAME TIME.

WHAT DON'T THESE GUYS GET ABOUT UNBREAKABLE SKIN...BUT NOT *UNRIPPABLE* CLOTHES?

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH JEANS COST THESE DAYS?

KLUD

I THOUGHT KINGPIN WAS *DONE* WITH THIS KIND OF CRIME.

HE IS...BUT THIS IS WAKANDAN MONEY. ANOTHER OF HIS EFFORTS TO WEAKEN THE BANK.

STEPPING IN FOR THE ARMED GUARDS SEEMED LIKE THE MOST LOGICAL WAY TO THWART THE ATTEMPT.

KREESH

HOW'D YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS HEIST ANYHOW?

I HAVE MY SOURCES. YOU DON'T NEED TO *CONCERN* YOURSELF.

NOW THERE'S THE *IMPERIOUS* T'CHALLA I'VE BEEN MISSING.

GOT YOUR BACK.

WHAM

'PRECIATE IT, FALCON.

YOU'RE *ENJOYING* HURTING FISK, AREN'T YOU?

ENJOYING? NO.

FISK IS MESSING WITH WAKANDA. I DON'T KNOW WHY HE THOUGHT THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA.

HE ATTEMPTED TO PUT ME OFF MY GAME. BUT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND...

"...THE GAME IS ALREADY OVER."

SHADOWLAND.

PLEASE, MR. FISK. THERE IS NO NEED TO *OVERREACT*. AS YOUR LAWYER, I AM TELLING YOU EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL.

KRACK

I NEED THE BANK'S *BOARD OF DIRECTORS* TO VOTE TO GIVE ME *CONTROL*.

AND THEY *WILL*. I'VE HAD MY TEAM GO OVER THE CHARTER A DOZEN TIMES. THERE'S NO HIDDEN LANGUAGE, NO LOOPHOLES, NO TRICKS.

HE'S LIKE A BIRD IN A GLUE TRAP, MR. FISK. HE MAY FLAP AROUND AND MAKE A LOT OF NOISE, BUT HE'S *GOING NOWHERE* AND *DOING NOTHING*.

HE DOESN'T HAVE A *MOVE*.

THAT IS WHAT *WORRIES* ME, MR. MADISON. HE *MUST* HAVE A MOVE...

"WE SIMPLY DO NOT SEE IT."

HEADQUARTERS OF THE BANK OF WAKANDA.

AND I SAY WE DO WHAT WE MUST TO ***SURVIVE!*** HOW MANY WERE KILLED IN NEW YORK? DO YOU WISH TO END UP DEAD TOO?

YOU WOULD ***BOW*** TO THE WILL OF THIS WILSON FISK? IF HE GAINS CONTROL OF THE BANK, HE WILL HAVE IN HIS HANDS MILLIONS OF ACRES OF WAKANDAN LAND.

DO YOU THINK HE WILL TREAT IT WITH ***RESPECT?***

WE MIGHT AS WELL COOPERATE RATHER THAN ***ANGER*** HIM. WE DON'T HAVE THE ***VOTES*** TO ***RESIST*** HIM.

DON'T BE SO CERTAIN.

K'TAMO! WE HEARD YOU WERE INJURED AND DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO RETURN TO WAKANDA FOR THE VOTE.

FISK ***WANTED*** ME TO STAY IN NEW YORK, BUT HE WILL FIND THAT THE CHILDREN OF WAKANDA HAVE MORE ***DETERMINATION*** THAN HE ANTICIPATED. DO YOU NOT AGREE?

I DO INDEED.

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, PRINCESS REGENT, BUT IT IS ***INAPPROPRIATE*** FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY TO ATTEMPT TO ***INFLUENCE*** OUR BUSINESS.

YOU DO NOT HAVE A VOICE ON THIS BOARD.

MY BROTHER HAS PROCURED FOR ME A ***PROXY.***

I INVOKE ARTICLE 17B OF THE CHARTER AND ***DELAY*** THIS VOTE BY ONE WEEK.

EVEN SO, YOU LACK THE VOTES TO BLOCK THIS SALE.

WHO AMONG YOU IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO STAND WITH ME?

I SECOND YOUR MOTION.

YOU'VE DELAYED THEIR DECISION BY A WEEK, BUT WILL IT *MATTER?* FISK WILL STILL DO WHAT HE WANTS IN SEVEN DAYS.

I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS MATTER WILL SOON BE WELL UNDER *CONTROL.*

10 MINUTES LATER...

YOU *DO* HAVE THIS UNDER CONTROL, DON'T YOU?

I WON'T DIGNIFY THAT WITH A RESPONSE.

I KIND OF WISH YOU WOULD. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING *DUMB,* ARE YOU?

WHAT AN *ABSURD* QUESTION. YOU'RE TALKING LIKE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME.

WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY BE THINKING?

MIYU, YOU'VE FAILED TO ANSWER YOUR ***SUMMONS***. I AM EXPECTING THE CALL FROM MADISON REGARDING WAKANDA, AND I WANT YOU THERE.

I AM AFRAID SHE IS ***UNAVAILABLE***.

MIYU'S ROBE! IF YOU'VE HARMED HER...

YOU KNOW MY REPUTATION FOR ***RUTHLESSNESS***.

YOU'VE LAUNCHED AN ***ATTACK*** ON MY ***COUNTRY***, FISK. DID YOU BELIEVE I WAS NOT GOING TO STRIKE BACK AND STRIKE BACK ***HARD?***

YOU THINK YOU CAN *TOY* WITH ME?!

WHERE IS MIYU?!

KRACK

MIYU...IS THAT THE TRUSTED CONFIDANT I ABDUCTED FROM YOUR STRONGHOLD?

WHOOM

THOOM

IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER WHAT I DID WITH HER...

K-TOOM

T'CHALLA!

RRTCH

I WILL *BREAK* YOUR WILL FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

KROOOM

I AM GOING TO *ENJOY* THIS.

WHAM

YOU ARE *NOT.*

WALL STREET. HARTMAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT BANK.

SOFIJA, CAN YOU TYPE ANY FASTER?

ONCE I RELEASE THIS, THE F.B.I. WILL SEE THAT IT'S A HAND ***MONEY LAUNDERING*** OPERATION AND SHUT IT DOWN. WHATEVER IS CURRENTLY IN THE SYSTEM WILL BE ***FROZEN.***

NINJAS WILL BE HERE SOON. AND WHEN WE'RE DONE HERE, WE STILL HAVE TO HELP THE ***LAWYER*** MOVE TO HIS NEW HOME.

THIS IS ***DANGEROUS*** STUFF, AND IF I DON'T DO IT RIGHT, I'LL LEAVE FINGERPRINTS AND THE F.B.I. WILL BE ALL OVER ***US.***

HONESTLY, I'VE NEVER SEEN THE PANTHER TAKE ***RISKS*** LIKE THIS BEFORE.

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM FIGHT FOR WAKANDA BEFORE.

WE MUST HAVE SET OFF SOME KIND OF NINJA ALARM. HERE COMES COMPANY.

I NEED A FEW MORE MINUTES.

YOU GOT 'EM.

YOU PUT UP LESS OF A FIGHT THAN I ANTICIPATED.

WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, YOU WILL *NOT* BE DISAPPOINTED.

CRACK

THESE *TRICKS* WON'T SAVE YOU.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW YOUR *MISTAKE?* YOU TOOK SOMETHING THAT WAS *BUSINESS*, AND YOU MADE IT *PERSONAL*.

YOU WANT... TO KNOW... *YOUR* MISTAKE?

THOOM

NOT... NOTICING... *THAT...*

FIZAATZ

YOU SET *YOUR* SIGHTS ON WAKANDA. *YOU* MADE THIS PERSONAL.

BOSS, IT'S SOFIJA. WE'RE DONE HERE. TIME FOR A SUPER-HEROIC EXIT.

UGH!

THIS SUPER-HEROIC ENOUGH FOR YOU?

JUST DON'T DROP ME.

YOU KNOW MY REPUTATION AS A *STRATEGIST*, SO YOU MUST BE WONDERING WHY I'VE COME HERE? HOW THIS FIGHT SERVES MY PURPOSES?

NOW THAT TEMPERS ARE COOLED, YOU HAVE PROBABLY BEGUN TO SUSPECT THAT I WISHED TO *DISTRACT* YOU.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT SO *EASY*.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO STOP THIS. IT IS UP TO YOU.

T'CHALLA...

ONE HOUR LATER.

FORGIVE ME, MY LORD. THE PANTHER STRUCK BEFORE I DETECTED HIS PRESENCE.

MIYU, ARE YOU *HARMED?*

NO, MY LORD. HE DRUGGED ME SO I COULD NOT MOVE, BUT HE DID NO MORE.

THIS HAD BETTER BE THAT DAMN LAWYER. HE SHOULD HAVE CALLED HOURS AGO.

BA-DEEP

HI, MR. FISK. SO, YOU ALREADY HEARD ABOUT THE WALL STREET OPERATION, HUH?

BAD LUCK THERE.

I KNOW I SUGGESTED THAT SETUP, BUT I ALWAYS SAID THERE WERE ***RISKS***. YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME. AM I RIGHT?

MADISON, WHAT ABOUT THE ***BOARD MEETING?*** DO I HAVE CONTROL OF THE BANK OF WAKANDA?

WELL, THAT DIDN'T ***QUITE*** GO AS EXPECTED EITHER. HOME TEAM'S TAKING A BIT OF A BEATING TODAY, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

IT TURNS OUT THERE WAS AN ARTICLE IN THE CHARTER I WAS ***UNAWARE*** OF. SOMEHOW, I GOT MY HANDS ON AN ***EARLY DRAFT***, NOT THE ONE THEY RATIFIED. ISN'T THAT ***WACKY?***

ANYHOW, THEY DELAYED THE VOTE BY A WEEK.

BUT IT'S ONLY A WEEK. THEY STILL DON'T HAVE THE VOTES.

IT'S NO BIGGIE.

I DON'T LIKE THIS. MIYU, TRACE THE CALL.

SO, YEAH. JUST A DELAY. I THINK EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE FINE. BETTER THAN FINE. ***GREAT!***

JUST ONE MORE MINUTE...

YOU'VE ***BETRAYED*** ME, HAVEN'T YOU? DO YOU CONSIDER THAT ***WISE?***

I'VE TRACED IT. MY LORD, THIS BODES ILL.

BETRAYED YOU? THAT'S ***SILLY.*** WHAT, YOU THINK I WAS PRESSURED INTO, I DON'T KNOW, TELLING EVERYTHING I KNOW TO AN ***ENEMY GOVERNMENT*** IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMUNITY?

BECAUSE THAT'S ***RIDICULOUS.***

"HE'S AT THE WAKANDAN EMBASSY."

SO, UH, I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.

WHO'S UP FOR LIVENING UP ***PROTECTIVE CUSTODY*** WITH CHINESE FOOD? ANYONE?

WE KNOW THE PANTHER'S PLAN NOW. IT IS ONLY TO *DELAY*. HE HAS HURT US, BUT HE HAS NOT *STOPPED* US.

YES. ONE WEEK AND WAKANDA WILL BE MINE.

HE HAS SHOWN HIS *WEAKNESS*. HE HAS NOTHING. HE CAN *DO* NOTHING.

IN SEVEN DAYS, I WILL SAVOR MY VICTORY.

CHECK AND MATE.

NOW WE TAKE SHADOWLAND AND ***DESTROY*** WILSON FISK.

AVON 2011

REIGN'S END

FRAN CAVIL 14.F.11

BLACK PANTHER: THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE **#529**

SHADOWLAND.

T'CHALLA, REMEMBER THAT STORY YOU TOLD US ABOUT HOW YOU BEAT KINGPIN AT ***CHESS***, AND HOW YOU SAID THIS WAS A GAME OF ***STRATEGY?***

I FEEL LIKE WE'VE GOTTEN ***OFF COURSE*** HERE.

YOU ARE CONCERNING YOURSELF TOO MUCH WITH THE ***DESTINATION***, AND NOT ENOUGH WITH THE ***JOURNEY***.

OH, OKAY. NOW I FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER ABOUT THIS FRONTAL ***ASSAULT*** ON THE WORLD'S ***DEADLIEST ASSASSIN*** CLAN.

JUST REMEMBER YOUR PARTS AND FOLLOW THE ***PLAN***.

THEY'RE *INSIDE* OUR HOME? *UNACCEPTABLE!*

THEY ARE *DECIMATING* OUR FIRST WAVE, MY LORD.

THEY CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES *INDEFINITELY*, BUT WE WILL TAKE HEAVY LOSSES BEFORE THIS ENDS.

THINNING OUR FORCES WILL NOT PREVENT ME FROM TAKING OWNERSHIP OF THE BANK OF WAKANDA AND ALL THE LANDS IT CAN FORECLOSE UPON.

IN A WEEK'S TIME, WAKANDA'S GOLD, OIL, URANIUM AND DIAMONDS WILL ALL BE *MINE*. SO WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE HERE TONIGHT?

YOU ARE HIS PURPOSE.

THE PANTHER HAS MADE THIS *PERSONAL*, MY LORD. HE HAS TURNED WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CONTEST BETWEEN MEN OF *POWER* INTO A *GRUDGE MATCH*.

HE IS HERE BECAUSE HIS *HONOR* DEMANDS THAT HE *DEFEAT* YOU.

MIYU, YOU THINK THIS ATTACK IS DRIVEN BY NOTHING MORE THAN *FOOLISH* NOTIONS OF *TRIBAL PRIDE*? DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE HIS CUNNING.

HE IS A FORMIDABLE THINKER, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN HIS THINKING IS *ALWAYS* FORMIDABLE. EVEN THE GREATEST MIND MAY BE MOTIVATED BY RAW *EMOTION*.

LADY BULLSEYE, TYPHOID MARY... DISTRACT FALCON AND CAGE. I WANT TO FACE THE PANTHER *MYSELF*.

AT EVERY TURN, YOU TWO HAVE *FAILED* TO DELIVER WHAT I ASK.

DO NOT FAIL ME *TONIGHT*.

BITE ME, MY LORD.

THE PANTHER MAY BE BLINDED BY HIS NEED TO ***DESTROY***, BUT WE MUST TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE WORST.

WHILE YOU DEAL WITH HIM, I ***BEG*** YOU TO ALLOW ME TO SECURE THE FINANCIAL DATABASE. WE MUST NOT BE LEFT ***VULNERABLE*** TO A SURPRISE ATTACK.

NO ONE CAN HAVE ACCESS TO THAT INFORMATION BUT ME. IT IS THE ***LIFEBLOOD*** OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

YOU CANNOT BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE, AND YOU MUST DEPEND UPON THOSE YOU ***TRUST***.

YOU ARE THE MOST ***LOYAL*** OF MY SERVANTS, BUT I DARE NOT TRUST EVEN ***YOU*** WITH ACCESS TO THOSE FILES.

WHAT MATTERS IS NOT ***PRESERVING*** THEM, FOR THEY EXIST ELSEWHERE, BUT ***DESTROYING*** THEM HERE. SHOULD THE WORST HAPPEN, THEY MUST NOT BE VULNERABLE.

I NOW ENTRUST YOU WITH THE ***FUTURE*** OF THE ***HAND***. ***ERASE*** THE FILES.

THIS FLASH DRIVE WILL GIVE YOU ENOUGH ACCESS TO ***WIPE THE DATA***, BUT NO MORE THAN THAT.

IF THE PANTHER HAS ANY HOPE OF GAINING ACCESS TO THESE FILES, HE WILL BE VERY MUCH ***DISAPPOINTED***.

EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON YOU. IF YOU FAIL IN THIS, WE MAY BE ***LOST***.

I WILL NOT WAVER IN MY PURPOSE, AND I WILL NOT FAIL. I ***SWEAR*** IT.

NOW, PANTHER... WE ***END*** THIS.

SOFIJA, IT IS TIME TO SET EVENTS IN MOTION. I WANT HIM TO RECEIVE *THE CALL* IN *EXACTLY* 15 MINUTES.

BOSS, I CAN SEE YOU GUYS HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL. YOU *SURE* THIS IS IMPORTANT?

IT IS.

GOT IT. MAKING THE CALL.

WE ARE NEARING THE *END GAME.*

I THINK SOMEONE NEEDS TO TELL THESE NINJAS, 'CAUSE THEY DIDN'T GET THE MEMO.

I DON'T KNOW. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE THINNING OUT. MAYBE THEY'RE LOSING HEART.

OR MAYBE THEY'RE JUST STEPPING ASIDE FOR THESE TWO.

HEARD YOU MISSED US. WE'RE BACK.

STICK TO THE *PLAN.*

WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF. YOU FIND KINGPIN.

T'CHALLA, YOU DARE RETURN TO SHADOWLAND?

WE MUST INVESTIGATE THIS SECURITY BREACH.

UNAUTHORIZED DATABASE ACTIVITY.

UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF FILES.

YOU'VE MADE YOUR LAST MISTAKE.

SNAP

OKAY, FISK, YOU SAY LOYAL SERVANT MIYU CAN'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE FILES...UNLESS SHE'S DONE HER RESEARCH ON THE SECURITY SYSTEM AND KNOWS THE *BACK DOOR*.

ALMOST THERE...

STOP, *TRAITOR!*

SHRP

*SHURI. PRINCESS REGENT OF WAKANDA. CURRENT **BLACK PANTHER**.*

I'M GETTING THE FEELING MY COVER IS BLOWN.

CLICK CLICK CLICK

BROTHER? BROTHER, ARE YOU THERE?

BROTHER, DO YOU COPY? I HAVEN'T BEEN FLYING THAT QUINJET BETWEEN NEW YORK AND WAKANDA SO I COULD WORK SOLO.

SOFIJA, THEY'VE DISCOVERED ME, AND I CAN'T REACH T'CHALLA.

HE'S GONE ON *RADIO SILENCE.* HOW'S THE PROGRESS?

WORM ACTIVATED

WE'RE GOOD TO GO.

NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT JOIN THE *FUN.*

I'VE *GOT* IT, I MIGHT AS WELL *FLAUNT* IT.

AIN'T YOU TWO TIRED OF TAKING ORDERS FROM THE FAT MAN?

I'M GOING TO ENJOY SKEWERING YOU, BIRDIE.

PICKED UP AN ***ANTIDOTE*** TO THAT ***SERUM*** YOU GAVE ME LAST TIME, SO DON'T EVEN BOTHER WITH IT.

FIGURED THAT WAS A ONE-TIME DEAL, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE ABOUT WORKING WITH A GUY LIKE THE PANTHER?

YOU CAN SAY, *"HEY, CAN YOU WHIP UP AN A GIZMO THAT DAMPENS **TELEKINETIC** AND **PSIONIC POWERS**?"* AND YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAYS?

HE SAYS "GIVE ME TEN MINUTES."

HE ALSO SAID IT MIGHT ***HURT*** A LITTLE, SO LET ME KNOW IF THIS IS ***UNCOMFORTABLE.***

AAAAHHHHGGH!

SO, ANOTHER WIN FOR THE GOOD GUYS.

BUT I LIKE THAT YOU KEEP TRYING. IT'S KIND OF INSPIRING.

DROP THE KNITTING NEEDLES.

K-TANG

YOU WOULD STRIKE AN UNARMED WOMAN?

IN THE INTEREST OF ALLOWING YOU TO PRESERVE YOUR CHIVALRY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.

WHAM

SOME KIND OF *NINJA HONOR* REQUIRED THEY TAKE US ON ALONE, BUT THEY WON'T HOLD OFF FOR LONG.

WHERE'S MY BROTHER? AND FOR THAT MATTER, WHERE'S *KINGPIN*?

THUD

I THINK WE FOUND THEM.

I MADE A ***MISTAKE*** NOT KILLING YOU AT THE BEGINNING.

I WON'T COMMIT THAT ERROR THIS TIME.

KRNCH

NOW I SHOW NO MERCY.

AS I RECALL, YOU SHOWED NO MERCY BEFORE.

KLANG

YOU SIMPLY ***FAILED*** TO DEFEAT ME.

AS YOU WILL FAIL THIS TIME.

YOU ACCUSE ME OF TAKING PERSONALLY A MATTER OF BUSINESS, BUT ***PROTECTING WAKANDA*** IS MY BUSINESS.

YOU DID NOT RECOGNIZE HOW FAR I WOULD GO TO DO MY DUTY.

HOW COULD I TAKE THIS DUTY SERIOUSLY WHEN YOU ***ABANDONED*** YOUR COUNTRY WHEN IT NEEDED YOU MOST?

MY COUNTRY NEEDED A CONFIDENT LEADER, AND WHEN I LEFT MY CONFIDENCE WAS SHAKEN.

YOU'LL FIND THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE.

SHOW ME.

IN THE END, I SUPPOSE I MUST *THANK* YOU FOR REMINDING ME WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT.

MY TIME HERE HAS BEEN WELL SPENT, BUT PERHAPS I AM DONE WITH HELL'S KITCHEN.

YOU WILL HAVE TO *SURVIVE* TONIGHT IF YOU WISH TO PLAN YOUR *FUTURE*.

I WILL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

AND NOW WHAT? YOU CONTINUE FIGHTING OUR ***SUPERIOR NUMBERS?*** FOR HOW LONG?

SOONER OR LATER, YOU WILL GROW TIRED OR MAKE A MISTAKE. AND THEN YOU ***DIE.***

YOUR PRIDE HAS LED YOU TO YOUR ***END.***

I HAVE NO WISH FOR MORE ***POINTLESS VIOLENCE.*** I HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT I CAME TO DO.

NOW WE SHALL LEAVE, AND YOU WILL NOT STOP US.

YOU ARE ***INSANE*** IF YOU THINK I WILL SIMPLY LET YOU WALK OUT OF HERE AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

PERHAPS NOT NOW, BUT WITHIN ***30 SECONDS...***

MY LORD, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A CALL. IT IS ***MIYU.***

SHE SAYS SHE HAS BEEN HELD ***PRISONER*** AT THE WAKANDAN ***EMBASSY*** FOR DAYS.

SHE KNEW THE IDENTIFICATION CODE. THERE IS NO DOUBT IT WAS HER. THE WOMAN WHO WE THOUGHT WAS MIYU HAS BEEN, FOR DAYS, AN ***IMPOSTER.***

THEN WHO...

HEY THERE, HANDSOME.

IF YOU HAVE ***HARMED*** HER...

THAT IS ***NOT*** HOW WE CONDUCT OUR BUSINESS. SHE SHALL BE SET FREE.

OR PERHAPS SHE SHALL BE ***EXTRADITED*** TO WAKANDA TO STAND TRIAL THERE AS AN ***ENEMY OF THE STATE.***

THAT CHOICE IS YOURS. ***NOW.***

I HOPE YOU DO NOT TAKE WHAT IS A MERE MATTER OF ***BUSINESS*** AND MAKE IT ***PERSONAL.***

YOU HAD A ***WEAKNESS*** AND I ***EXPLOITED*** IT. IT IS NOTHING BUT SOUND ***STRATEGY.***

WE SHALL LEAVE, AND MIYU WILL NOT BE HARMED.

HOWEVER, YOU MUST KNOW THAT I DID NOT COME HERE TO FIGHT YOUR WARRIORS TO A STALEMATE AND THEN LEAVE.

YOU ALLOWED MY SISTER FULL ACCESS TO YOUR FINANCIAL DATABASE, AND RATHER THAN ERASE IT, SHE RELEASED INTO IT A WORM--ONE THAT REVEALED MOST OF YOUR ***HIDDEN FINANCIAL INTERESTS*** TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

"ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOUR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ARE BEING EXPOSED. ***MONEY LAUNDERING...***

JAKARTA.

POLISI

"ARMS DEALS..."

PANAMA CITY.

"ORGANIZED ***EMBEZZLEMENT*** RINGS."

SHANGHAI.

I'VE ***HURT*** YOU, BUT I HAVE NOT ***DESTROYED*** YOU... ***YET.***

BEST TO KEEP MY OPTIONS OPEN, SO I'VE HIDDEN A BACKDOOR ***WORM*** IN YOUR DATABASE FILES.

YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT WITHOUT WIPING OUT YOUR OWN RECORDS, SO DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF TO LOOK.

KNOW THAT WHAT LITTLE I'VE LEFT YOU, I CAN TAKE AWAY ***ANY TIME*** I CHOOSE.

DO NOT TROUBLE WAKANDA AGAIN.

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR *GIRLFRIEND* BACK WHEN WE'RE DONE *QUESTIONING* HER.

THAT WENT WELL.

I THOUGHT SO.

HOLD ON A MINUTE. IF YOU COULD HAVE WIPED HIM OUT *ENTIRELY*, WHY DIDN'T YOU? WHY LEAVE HIM *ANY* MONEY?

THINK ABOUT IT. KINGPIN ALWAYS CLAWS HIS WAY BACK. AND THE HAND HAS MONEY HIDDEN EVEN *WE* COULDN'T FIND.

THIS WAY, PANTHER'S GOT *LEVERAGE* TO THREATEN HIM. IT GIVES THE GOOD GUYS THE HIGH GROUND.

NICE.

EPILOGUE.
ONE WEEK LATER.

I WAS WONDERING WHEN I WAS GOING TO HEAR FROM YOU.

IT'S **YOUR** NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU COULD HAVE ASKED ME TO LEAVE.

MATT MURDOCK. DAREDEVIL.

IT'S BIGGER THAN A SINGLE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR ME NOW. AND WHY WOULD I ASK YOU TO LEAVE WHEN YOU HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL?

BESIDES, I FIGURED THIS IS WHAT YOU NEEDED.

BUT I GET THE FEELING YOU DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.

I NEEDED SOME TIME AWAY FROM WAKANDA, TO FIGURE OUT WHO I WAS.

BEYOND BEDS AND BATHS

I THINK I UNDERSTAND SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

I'M BLIND. PLEASE HELP

WE'VE BOTH BEEN THROUGH SOME BAD TIMES, BUT WE'VE BOTH COME OUT STRONGER. I KNOW I HAVE.

SO, DID YOU FIGURE OUT ***WHO*** YOU WERE?

YES...AND I FIGURED OUT ***WHERE*** I BELONG.

IT TURNS OUT THAT I'M WHO I'VE ***ALWAYS*** BEEN. THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS I BELIEVE IN, THAT I WILL ALWAYS FIGHT FOR, BUT NONE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY ***HOMELAND.***

DEVIL'S DINER

FINDING OUT YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU SHOULD BE--THAT'S NOT SUCH A BAD DISCOVERY TO MAKE.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

I HARDLY RECOGNIZE THE SOUNDS, THE SMELLS OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD ANYMORE. IT'S CHANGED SO MUCH, BUT I GUESS THE UPSIDE IS THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW.

I HEARD THE ***ROMANIAN*** MOB IS MOVING IN. YOU EVER RUN INTO THOSE GUYS?

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.

YOU'VE BEEN MY MOST RELIABLE ***ALLY*** HERE, SOFIJA. I ***OWE*** YOU A GREAT DEAL.

HELLS YEAH, YOU DO.

BUT DON'T WORRY, I HAVE A ***REPAYMENT*** PLAN WORKED OUT.

HOW ABOUT A JOB IN WAKANDA?

THE ROYAL PALACE CAFÉ CAN ALWAYS USE A GOOD ***WAITRESS.***

I WAS THINKING MORE LIKE ***MINISTER OF DEFENSE.***

WE SHALL FIGURE OUT SOME WAY TO SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE. PACK YOUR BAGS. I'LL HAVE A CAR PICK YOU UP AT EIGHT TOMORROW MORNING, AND WE'LL DISCUSS IT DURING THE FLIGHT TO WAKANDA.

AND WHAT'S ***TONIGHT?*** A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO LOOK FOR BEFORE I LEAVE TOWN.

WHAT'S THAT?

"TROUBLE."

AN ADVENTURE FIT FOR A KING

Here's the difference between readers and writers. Readers love to see the characters they care about triumph, and writers love to see them suffer. It's not that we want to inflict pain for its own sake, but we want to tell stories, and the more a character has to gain – or to lose – the better the story.

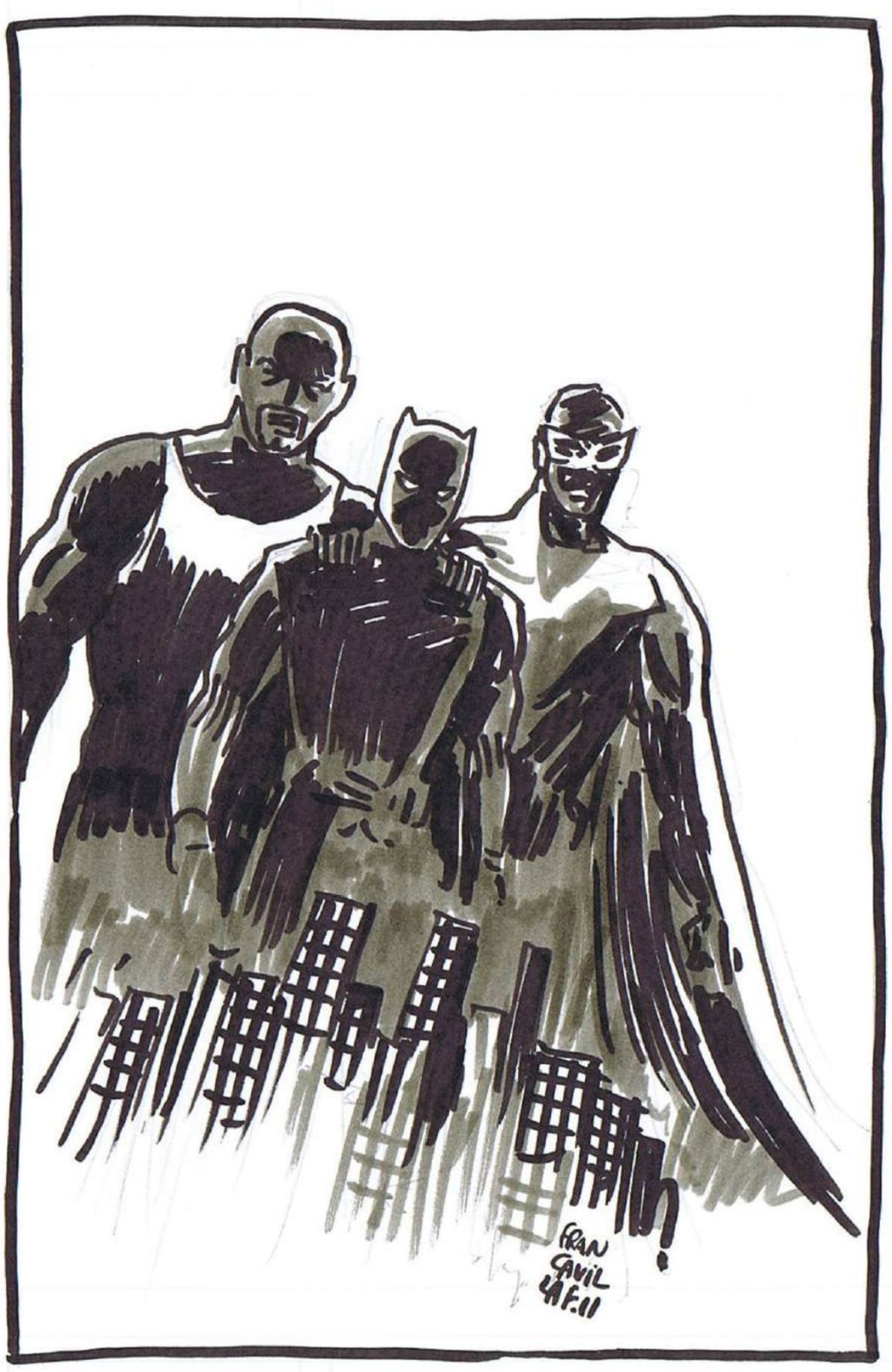
As a writer and a Black Panther fan, I loved when Marvel first proposed the idea of de-powering T'Challa and bringing him to Hell's Kitchen. Take a brilliant and powerful man, knock him down to his lowest point, and figure out how he builds himself back. I thought working on this book would be a good time, but this project turned out to be more fun than I even could have imagined.

It's hard to lose when you've got good material, and we had that not only in our concept but in our great creators. Francesco Francavilla, the amazing artist of the visual on the left, and who has been involved with most of this run, has played such an important role in creating a gritty and tense environment for our hero. He made the dark parts darker and the funny parts funnier. We also benefited from the skills of some of my favorite artists in the biz: Jefte Palo, Mike Oeming and Shawn Martinbrough. We were also lucky enough to work with great talents like colorists Jean-Francois Beaulieu and Felix Serrano, our always dependable and inventive letterer Joe Caramagna, cover artists Simone Bianchi & Simone Peruzzi and Patrick Zircher & Andy Troy, and editorial insights from John Denning, Rachel Pinnelas, Jon Moisan and Tom Brevoort. Last but not least, Editor Bill Rosemann has been a creative partner all the way through, and it's been a joy to work with him.

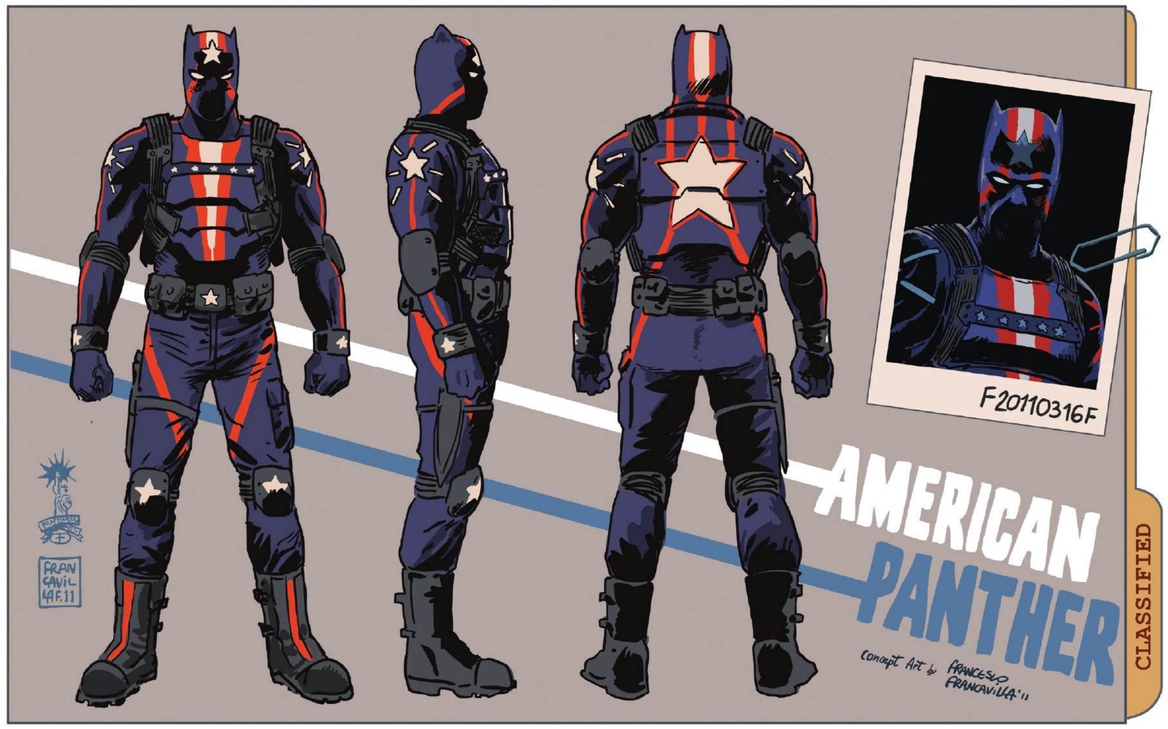
I know some fans resisted the idea, and I took all the feedback we received seriously, but the notes I loved reading most were the ones that thought they would hate our book, but ended up loving it. I'm grateful to them and to every reader who gave this book a chance.

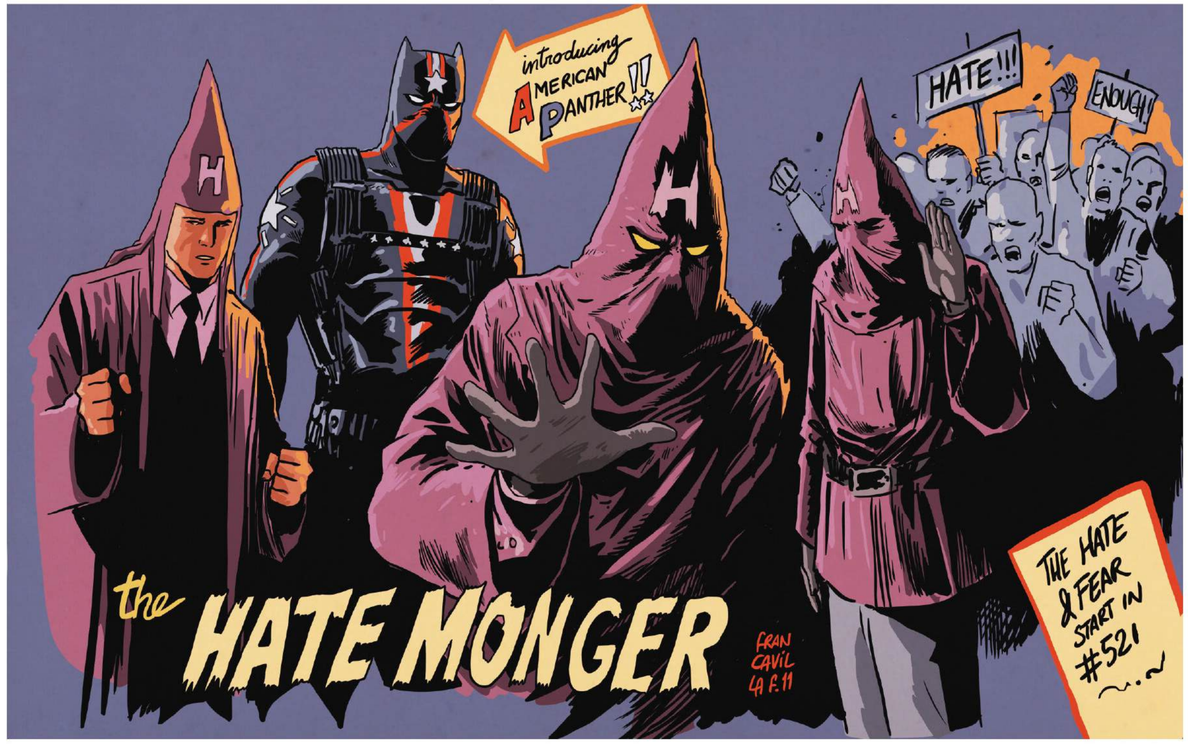
Viva Wakanda!

David Liss
12/21/11

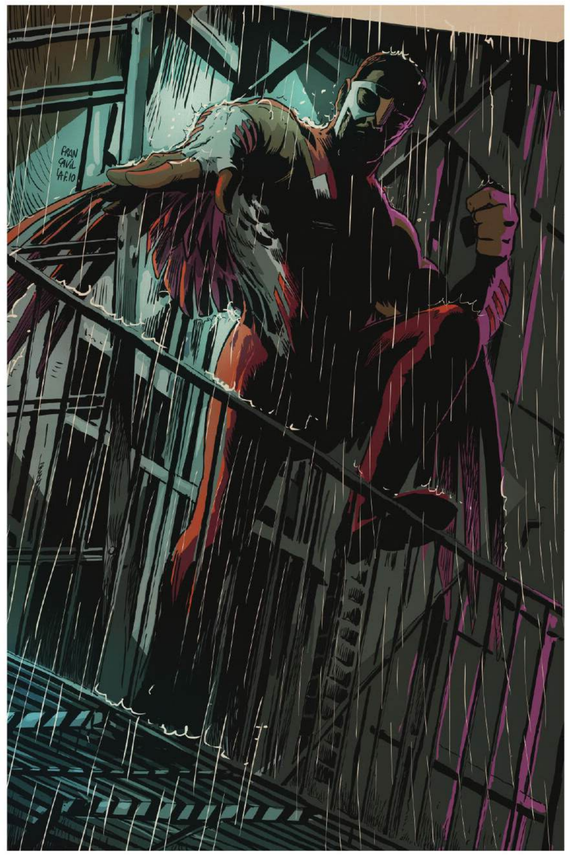


BLACK PANTHER: THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE **#525** & **#527**
COVER CONCEPTS BY FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA





HATE MONGER AND AMERICAN PANTHER
CHARACTER STUDIES BY FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA



THE WOULD-BE MEN WITHOUT FEAR
BLACK PANTHER: THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR TEASER IMAGES BY FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA

FINDING THE PANTHER'S CLAWS
CHARACTER STUDIES BY MICHAEL AVON OEMING

FINDING THE PANTHER'S CLAWS

CHARACTER STUDIES BY MICHAEL AVON OEMING

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA